

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

ARMY review  
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REPORT

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Most soldiers agreed that the food in the army was vastly superior to the food they had eaten at home.

This did not mean that Soviet troops never experienced hunger. The army got enough food, but it was not of the right variety. There was not enough meat, fat, or sugar. The food consisted mostly of starches, potatoes, dry cereal, and bread, which filled the stomach but produced hunger pangs about two hours later. All officers bought additional food. Summer and winter rations were the same. On holidays all military personnel received more meat and larger portions of other dishes, while EM received an additional stewed fruit course for lunch.

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2. the following personnel received more and better food than ground troops: flying personnel; highly skilled air force technical personnel, such as instrument maintenance men; and submarine and torpedo-boat crews. There was enough food in the USSR and the Soviet Zone of Germany for the Soviet Army but not for the civilian population. If there was a shortage of food, all priority went to the military.

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3. There were several (ration) norms for Soviet troops, which varied in quantity and quality. There was also a special norm for hospital patients. Officers and EM on duty but suffering from some stomach ailment received a medical slip and were fed specially prepared diets.

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## 4. These were typical Soviet Army meals:

- Breakfast: Goulash, broth, gruel, or fish with potatoes; tea with two small cubes of sugar; bread and a pat of butter.
- Dinner: Borsch, soup, goulash, fish with potatoes, or meat with macaroni; bread and one pat of butter. Only officers were served a dessert, which consisted of stewed fruit. No tea was served with dinner.
- Supper: Goulash, herring, or other fish or meat with vegetables. Tea with two small cubes of sugar; bread and one pat of butter.

Bread was always on the table, and officers and EM could eat as much bread as they wanted. While they could not have a second helping of meat or fish, they could have another helping of soup or borsch. The daily menu contained meat in one meal and fish in another meal. Meat, while insufficient in quantity, was usually fresh and of good quality. Most Soviet units (regiments) kept pigs which they fed with slops, and which were slaughtered on political holidays, when extra meat was given to the troops. (During World War II supply units had had herds of sheep, pigs, and cows which were slaughtered to meet daily requirements.) No cheese, milk, or eggs were served in the daily menu. Butter in minute quantities was the only dairy product served to the men. (The PX stores, however, did sell cheeses, milk, chocolates, and other dairy products.) Officers, if they so desired, could get a glass of milk and an egg for breakfast by paying an extra 40 marks monthly. The serving of beer, wine, or other liquor was not permitted in messes or clubs.

5. In August 1952, [redacted] the Air Force had a combat ration, packed in individual packets, which consisted of canned meat or fish and chocolate. [redacted]

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6. [redacted]

[redacted] A special medical committee inspected the food in large depots. 25X1

- a. In July 1952 a GOFQ order was read to the troops at a formation. It stated that three or four medical officers, ranging from colonel to major, had been imprisoned because they permitted spoiled food to be served to the EM, which resulted in hundreds of cases of sickness. [redacted] the spoiled sausage which caused the sickness came from a [redacted] German firm, and that no more meat was to be purchased from that firm. Some fish and meat were also mentioned in the order as having been unfit for consumption. [redacted] the order stated that the sick troops had had their stomachs pumped. 25X1

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- b. In the USSR all food products were transported in closed vehicles. Meat was placed in tin-lined boxes; bread, in wooden boxes; and flour, in bags. The vehicle used for transportation of food, whether it was a truck or was horse-drawn, was always closed. During World War II flour was also stored in bags;

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every other type of food (vegetables, sugar, butter, etc.) was kept in boxes, closed vehicles, or tents in the rear of the front lines.

7. Soldiers were furnished canteens full of water by the unit mess officer. They were not supposed to drink water from a river or lake until it had been tested and judged potable. Unit medical officers and epidemiological reconnaissance teams were responsible for testing the water. Signs were posted at points where water was available, with the inscription "Fit to drink" or "Unfit to drink". This procedure, however, was not enforced in actuality, and soldiers drank water from any source.

8. In Bielitz-Heilstaette as well as at the 653rd Aviation Base, [redacted] Pantocyt tablets (a chlorine preparation) [redacted] were issued to troops living under field or combat conditions. One tablet was to be used to purify each canteen of untested water and took about 20 minutes to kill all the bacteria. The tablets came in small glass vials of 15 to 20 tablets each. They were to be issued to troops in the field or in combat, but actually none were issued. The vials [redacted] were kept in the hospital pharmacies and medical sections of each unit. [redacted] 25X1

9. To mention the food situation in the USSR: fats, meats, dairy products, salads, cakes, oranges, tangerines, bananas, and coconuts were hard to get and unobtainable by the average person. Coffee, cocoa, and fruits such as pineapple and grapefruit, [redacted] in the Western Zone, were not for sale in the USSR. The average worker in the USSR ate 50 to 100 gms. of meat or fish daily, supplemented with borsch, cereal, potatoes, tea, and bread. But he went without vegetables, salads, cakes, and fruits. 25X1

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